(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) Do not arise

**Growth in Exports**

47. SHRI SANATAN BIST: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any growth in exports so far during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of this growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) India's exports during April-Sept, 1995, the latest period for which trade data are available, are estimated at $ 14685 million signifying a satisfactory growth of 26.37% over the exports of $11621 million during the corresponding period last year.

48. [*Cancelled.*]

**Grains damaged in Punjab and Haryana**

49. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated the 13th September, 1995, under the caption 4m". tonnes of grains may go down the drain in North";

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of grains damaged in Punjab and Haryana during the last monsoon period due to their being kept in the open; and

(c) the measures adopted to create additional warehousing capacity for storing the procured grains and the gap still remained between the storage capacity and the quantum of procured grains?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The news item appeared in "The Pioneer" dated the 13th September, 1995 under the caption 4 m tonnes of grains may go down the drain in North is not correct as only two million tonnes of foodgains have been lying in open in FCI Punjab and Haryana; out of which a very small quantity has been affected by rains during 1995.

(b) The estimated quantity of foodgrains affected, salvaged and recovered as damaged in FCI Punjab and Haryana during the last monsoon period due to their being kept in open is as follows.

(Figs. in MTs.)

| State | Quantity of foodgrains affected | Quantity salvaged | Quantity recovered as damaged |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Punjab | 124005 | 56328 | 2046 |
| Haryana | 18357 | 237 | 60 |

The total quantity of foodgrains damaged and rendered unfit for human consumption will be known only after the salvaging operations of the remaining affected stocks is completed:

(c) The FCI has adopted the following measures for creation of additional storage/Warehousing capacity for storing the procured grain.

(i) Higher utilisation of covered capacity, both owned and hired.

(ii) Expediting own construction programme, FCI has already constructed 3.14 lacs tonnes capacity godowns between 1992-93 to 1994-95 and proposed to add another 1.43 lacs tonnes storage capacity during the current year 1995-96.

(iii) Building of Cap complexes for storing of wheat in the consuming states.

(iv) Hiring of available storage capacity from CWC, SWC, State Govt. agencies and private parties.

During the last 3 years the storage space available with the FCI and the Stock position is given below:—

(Fig. in Million Tonnes)

| As on | Storage space | Stocks | %Utilisation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 31.3.93 | 19.46 | 12.04 | 62% |
| 31.3.94 | 23.66 | 18.94 | 80% |
| 31.3.95 | 27.40 | 20.96 | 77% |
| 1.10.95 | 27.92 | 19.36 | 69% |

Between 31.3.93 and 1.10.95 additional 8.46 million tonnes of storage capacity has been arranged by FCI.

**Cases of Export of Spurious Material by Traders**

50. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases have come to the notice of Government in which some traders are misusing the 'Moscow Conduit' to export spurious materials or junk and then secure huge amounts of foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the cases and what action have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Some complaints of illegal switch trade in respect of export of certain goods to Russia under the Debt Payment route had been received. These have been forwarded to the Directorate of Enforcement in the Ministry of Finance for appropriate action. In respect of alleged cases of export of sub standard/ spurious material to Russia, penal action is taken where evidence is established, under the provisions of the Import and Export (Control) Act, 1947 and the foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

**Welfare schemes in CIL**

51. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India companies have welfare schemes for their employess;

(b) whether it is a fact that CIL also takes up community welfare programmes in the adjoining areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the welfare and community development schemes taken up in BCCL, CCL and Rajmahal project (in Bihar).

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The welfare and community development schemes taken up by Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and Rajmahal project of Eastern Coalfields Limited include sinking of wells, construction of passengers shed,